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Vietnam Education Foundation Community Outreach, Houston, Texas

February 8, 2013 (Washington, D.C.) The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce its Community Outreach meeting in Houston, Texas, on Friday, March 1, 2013, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Kim Son Restaurant, 2001 Jefferson. In order to share information about VEF, brief presentations will be made with an opportunity for questions from the audience. With a deadline of April 10, 2013, for the VEF Fellowship program beginning in 2014, the meeting will address the requirements for applying for a VEF Fellowship.

Two VEF Board members from the U.S. Vietnamese-American community will be speaking: Ms. Anhlan Nguyen, IT Portfolio Manager at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and Mr. David Duong, CEO of California Waste Solutions. In addition, presentations will be given by Dr. Lynne McNamara, VEF Executive Director, and Dr. George Stancel, Executive Vice President for Academic and Research Affairs at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, and past Dean of the university's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences that is jointly operated with The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center.

VEF is an independent U.S. Federal Government agency, whose mission is to build the relationship between Vietnam and the United States through educational exchanges. As per the VEF legislative mandate, VEF activities focus only on the STEMM fields: sciences (natural, physical, and environmental), technology (including information technology), engineering, mathematics, and medicine. VEF educational exchange activities consist of three programs: (1) Fellowship Program, which sends Vietnamese nationals to the United States for graduate degree programs; (2) Visiting Scholar Program, which supports Vietnamese nationals, who already hold a doctorate, to further develop their professional skills via studies, research, and/or observational activities at leading U.S. academic institutions; and (3) U.S. Faculty Scholar Program, which supports American professors to teach courses in English at Vietnamese institutions from one to two semesters by teaching on-site in Vietnam or by teaching via interactive, real-time videoconferencing from the United States.

VEF began operations in 2003, and the year 2013 marks its 10th anniversary. This Community Outreach meeting is part of a series of VEF events in 2013 to celebrate this important milestone in the history of VEF and focuses on sharing information about VEF programs with members of the community. This is the first time that VEF is holding a public outreach meeting in the United States to introduce VEF programs and activities more widely to the public. The goal is to promote public awareness, participation, and support for VEF programs. The Outreach meeting is also intended to seek more potential Vietnamese applicants for the VEF Fellowship and Visiting Scholar programs as well as to reach out to American professors who would like to teach courses at Vietnamese universities in Vietnam. VEF is pleased to have an opportunity to reach out to the community in Houston, a key region for VEF and home to the second largest community of Vietnamese-Americans in the United States.

So far, VEF has sent 421 VEF Fellows to study at 84 U.S. universities of which 32 VEF Fellows have been sent to universities in Houston, namely, the University of Texas at Houston, the University of Houston, and Rice University.

In addition to the Community Outreach event, further VEF outreach efforts to the academic community are planned through the efforts of Dr. Stancel, who has arranged for Dr. McNamara to meet with Deans, Department heads, faculty, and other administrators at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Rice University, M.D. Anderson, and other institutions in the Houston area. The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Rice University, and the University of Houston are members of the VEF Alliance of 112 highly regarded U.S. universities supporting the mission of VEF and are among the top research institutions in the United States.

VEF is pleased to invite all members of the community, especially Vietnamese-Americans, who are interested in learning more about VEF programs, activities, and mission, to the Community Outreach event at the Kim Son restaurant. Refreshments will be served.

For more information on VEF, please visit the VEF website at www.vef.gov.
